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NOV 15 2006AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A feed device for extending the processing runs of manufacturing explosive materials, comprising:

a feed hopper for retaining processing materials, the feed hopper having an access at the top of the feed hopper for inputting processing materials therein; and,

an extender being attached to the top of the feed hopper, the extender ~~having one or more~~ comprising at least two baffles fixed within the interior of the extender,

wherein the extender is attached to the top of the feed hopper effective for conveying processing materials, from the extender, through the access and into the feed hopper, and

wherein said at least two baffles are arranged along separate baffle levels where each baffle of said at least two baffles is inter-spaced at equal vertical distances so that said each baffle extends from an inner side of said extender and is oriented at an angle toward a lower baffle of said at least two baffles.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The feed device of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the extender includes from about 2 to about 7 baffles.

4. (Original) The feed device of claim 1, wherein the extender includes an access port capable of being closed.

5. (Original) The feed device of claim 1, wherein the baffles are slanted at an angle of from about 30 degrees to about 60 degrees.
6. (Currently Amended) The feed device of claim 5 ~~1~~, wherein the baffles are slanted at an angle of from about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees.
7. (Original) The feed device of claim 6, wherein the baffles are slanted at an angle of about 45 degrees.
8. (Original) The feed device of claim 1, wherein the baffles substantially cover a cross-sectional area of the extender.
9. (Original) The feed device of claim 8, wherein the baffles extend to cover from about 70% to about 80% of the area within the extender.
10. (Currently Amended) The feed device of claim 1, further comprising an attaching mechanism effective to ~~attached~~ attach the extender to the feed hopper.
- 11-13 (Canceled)

14. (Original) The feed device of claim 1, wherein the extender comprises a substantially uniform interior diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for augmenting a feed hopper for manufacturing explosive materials, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a feed device for extending ~~the~~ processing runs of manufacturing explosive materials having a feed hopper for retaining processing materials, the feed hopper ~~having~~ comprising an access at ~~the~~ a top of the feed hopper for inputting processing materials therein and an extender being attached to the top of the feed hopper, the extender ~~having one or more~~ comprising at least two baffles being fixed within the interior of the extender,

wherein the extender is attached to the top of the feed hopper effective for conveying processing materials, from the extender, through the access and into the feed hopper; and,

conveying processing materials from the extender into the feed hopper,

wherein said at least two baffles are arranged along separate baffle levels where each baffle of said at least two baffles is inter-spaced at equal vertical distances so that said each baffle extends from an inner side of said extender and is oriented at an angle toward a lower baffle of said at least two baffles.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of conveying the retained processing materials comprises an agitator.

17. (Original) The feed device of claim 15, wherein the baffles retain from about 7 pounds of processing material or less.

18. (Original) The feed device of claim 17, wherein each level of baffles retains about the same amount of processing material as retained by the feed hopper.

19-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) A feed device for extending the processing runs of manufacturing explosive materials, comprising:

a feed hopper for retaining processing materials, the feed hopper having an access at the top of the feed hopper for inputting processing materials therein; and,

an extender being attached to the top of the feed hopper, the extender comprising at least one baffle being fixed within the interior of the extender,

wherein the extender is attached to the top of the feed hopper effective for conveying processing materials, from the extender, through the access and into the feed hopper, and,

wherein the feed hopper comprises a first interior diameter and the extender comprises a second interior diameter so that said first interior diameter is substantially same as the second interior diameter.

22. (New) A feed device for extending the processing runs of manufacturing explosive materials, comprising:

a feed hopper for retaining processing materials, the feed hopper having an access at the top of the feed hopper for inputting processing materials therein; and,

an extender being attached to the top of the feed hopper, the extender comprising at least one baffle being fixed within the interior of the extender,

wherein the extender is attached to the top of the feed hopper effective for conveying processing materials, from the extender, through the access and into the feed hopper, and

wherein the feed hopper comprises a first rectangular configuration and the extender comprises a second rectangular configuration so that said first rectangular configuration substantially replicates the second rectangular configuration.